



December 4, 1995

David Werdegarr, M.D., M.P.H.  
Health Policy & Planning Division  
Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
1600 Ninth Street, Room 433  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Werdegarr,

Alvarado Hospital Medical Center, a Tenet Health Care facility, would like to commend OSHPD for attempting to measure outcomes of medical care in the state of California. This task is incredibly complex because of the multitude of variables, but we acknowledge that risk-adjusted outcomes are certainly a necessary part of health care today.

We applaud your efforts to verify the validity of the outcome measures for AMI and disectomy, as well as the readmission rates following caesarean section and vaginal deliveries, and for taking the necessary steps when the measure was found to be invalid.

Our concerns continue to be:

- the age of the data being used;
- the need for a clear definition of the parameters of post-operative complications for all facilities;
- the appropriate definition for a "readmission" (which actually represents a related readmission rather than just a subsequent hospitalization);
- the need for standardized coding practices throughout the state;
- and the establishment of a state-wide mechanism for hospital input during the development of new studies.

Alvarado Hospital Medical Center shares the goal for continuous quality improvement in the medical care we provide and we look forward to participating in projects that will benefit patients, physicians, providers and the hospital community.

Sincerely,

Barry Weinbaum  
Chief Executive Officer

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Chief of Staff

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